

IWAFUNE et al.
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Preliminary Amendment
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A rubber composition blended with a rubber component-containing coagulated matter, wherein a rubber component is blended, and the rubber component comprises a component (A) comprising at least one of a natural rubber and a diene base synthetic rubber and a component (B) comprising a rubber component-containing coagulated matter obtained by drying and coagulating a serum of natural rubber obtained by centrifugally separating a natural rubber latex.

2. (original): The rubber composition blended with a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in claim 1, wherein said component (A) is at least one selected from the group consisting of a natural rubber, an isoprene rubber, a styrene-butadiene copolymer rubber, a styrene-isoprene copolymer rubber and a butadiene rubber.

3. (currently amended): The rubber composition blended with a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein an amount of said component (B) is 0.5 to 40 % by weight based on the whole rubber components.

4. (currently amended): The rubber composition blended with a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein said

component (A) is the styrene-isoprene copolymer rubber, and an amine base antioxidant is further blended.

5. (currently amended): A rubber composition, wherein a rubber component comprising a natural rubber is blended, and at least a part of the natural rubber is a natural rubber mixture ~~{component (C)}~~(component (C)) obtained by coagulating a natural rubber latex at 90°C or higher, then turning it into crumbs and drying.

6. (original): The rubber composition as described in claim 5, wherein said rubber component further comprises a diene base synthetic rubber.

7. (currently amended): The rubber composition as described in ~~claim 5 or 6~~claim 6, wherein said diene base synthetic rubber is at least one selected from the group consisting of an isoprene rubber, a styrene-butadiene copolymer rubber and a butadiene rubber.

8. (currently amended): The rubber composition as described in ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~claim 5, wherein an amount of said component (C) is 0.5 to 100 % by weight based on the whole rubber components.

9. (currently amended): The rubber composition as described in ~~any of claims 5 to 8~~claim 5, wherein a viscosity stabilizer for a natural rubber is further added to said component (C).

10. (original): The rubber composition as described in claim 9, wherein said viscosity stabilizer is a hydrazide compound represented by the following Formula (I):



wherein R in Formula (I) represents an alkyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 30 carbon atoms or an aryl group.

11. (original): A production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter, comprising a step of centrifugally separating a natural rubber latex, a step of coagulating a resulting serum and a step of drying the coagulated serum.

12. (original): A production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter, comprising a step of coagulating a natural rubber latex by vaporization, a step of turning a resulting coagulated matter into crumbs and a step of drying the coagulated matter turned into crumbs.

13. (currently amended): The production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in claim 11 ~~or 12~~, wherein said coagulating step is carried out by means of any of a thin film distillation dryer, a drum dryer and a belt dryer.

14. (currently amended): The production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in ~~any of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 12, wherein said coagulating step is carried out ~~at 90°C or higher~~ by means of any of a thin film distillation dryer, a drum dryer and a belt dryer.

15. (currently amended): The production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in ~~any of claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11, wherein said ~~drying~~ coagulating step is carried out ~~by means of a bucket type dryer or a belt type dryer~~ at 90° C or higher.

16. (currently amended): The production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in ~~any of claims 11 to 15~~claim 12, ~~further comprising a creper step and/or a shredder step~~wherein said coagulating step is carried out at 90° C or higher.

17. (new): The production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in claim 11, wherein said drying step is carried out by means of a bucket type dryer or a belt type dryer.

18. (new): The production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in claim 12, wherein said drying step is carried out by means of a bucket type dryer or a belt type dryer.

19. (new): The production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in claim 11, further comprising a creper step and/or a shredder step.

20. (new): The production process for a rubber component-containing coagulated matter as described in claim 12, further comprising a creper step and/or a shredder step.